

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 2, 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs, should be fully addressed by the foregoing amendments.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants would note that the claims do not set forth ranges within ranges, but ranges for each of the respective pieces which are clearly identified.

Otherwise, the Examiner is thanked for pointing out informalities to which the above amendments are directed.

The rejection of Claims 2-5, 7-11, 13-15 and 18-20 as being unpatentable over Uchida et al or Tsuchida et al in view of JP '266 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is requested on grounds that the rejection is based on an erroneous understanding of the claimed invention as evidenced by the rejection of the claims under the second paragraph of section 112.

Moreover, the Office Action cannot characterize Okuma's teaching as "the important teaching" as set forth on page 8 while, at the same time, acknowledging that Okuma only implicitly teaches the claimed core division with specified axial lengths and effective opening angle. The record does not support the assertion that such an implicit recognition would be within an artisan's ordinary skills. Likewise, that record evidence is also lacking with regard to the conclusion found in the second paragraph on page 7 of the Office Action.

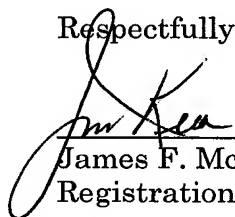
Accordingly, early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this response or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 056207.57001US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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